2001/02 performance plan 2003/04

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry for
Children and Families

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Message from the Minister

As the Minister for Children and Families, it's my responsibility to help ensure that every child in British Columbia has the opportunities and support they need to grow up healthy, within healthy families and communities.

To realize this vision, the ministry has taken some important steps this year, including appointing a Children's Health and Development Advisor and investing $8 million in early childhood health and development services for Aboriginal families.

We're also moving forward with promotion, prevention and early support initiatives for all families. Ministry staff are working closely with parents, service providers and other key partners at learning sites across the province to build a comprehensive network of early support services, from pregnancy outreach, to dental and vision care, to home visiting programs where experienced parents help families deal with the daily challenges of parenting.

These initiatives support the government's health goals, which broadly address the well-being of all our citizens. They also reflect our understanding that families and communities know their own strengths, and their own needs, best. Our role – in the ministry and in tandem with our community partners – is to help translate that knowledge into action.

For example, we've been working with Aboriginal communities for several years to strengthen their capacity to design and deliver their own child and family services. Today, 120 of the province's 197 reserve-based bands have either achieved that goal or are working to achieve it, and similar work is under way with organizations representing Metis and urban Aboriginal communities across B.C.

These are just a few examples of how the ministry works to support healthy children, families and communities. In this performance plan, we outline our commitment to build on these and other accomplishments during the next three years.

We all have a stake in building healthier communities and giving every child the best possible start in life. As Minister, I intend to lead by example and encourage all British Columbians to join our efforts to build a better future for all our children.

Edward John
Minister

Message from the Deputy Minister

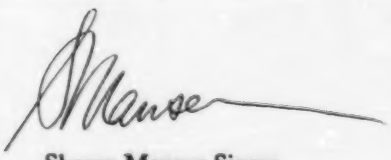
In a very real way, the lives and futures of thousands of children and families in British Columbia are affected every day by staff in the ministry, and by our partners across the community service sector. These individuals do some of the most challenging – and most important – work in our communities, and a key ministry goal in the next three years is to give them the tools and support they need to do their jobs more effectively.

As Deputy Minister, I have made it a personal priority to improve the organizational health of – not just the ministry, but the community service sector overall. I recognize that all our staff, whether employed directly or through agencies, are highly skilled professionals who've dedicated their working lives to serving children and families. At the same time, we all know that the pressures of public scrutiny can erode people's morale and leave them feeling under-valued – reducing their capacity to give their very best.

We're working to address these issues in a number of ways, starting with a renewed focus on workplace improvements, work redesigns and better management practices. We're strengthening our commitment to service quality, too, and one of our key objectives for the next three years is to help our staff improve their knowledge, skills and abilities.

We're also working to build a more positive public image, and to emphasize that everyone involved in community services is on the same team, working towards the same goals. In other words, we are one sector that shares one vision and, like any family, we need support to stay strong and healthy.

Supporting our staff is a vital part of supporting children and families and this plan makes it clear that staff are a top priority. I look forward to working with all our partners in the sector to continue building a high-quality, integrated service system that meets the needs of clients in all of our communities.



Sharon Manson Singer
Deputy Minister

Introduction

The Ministry for Children and Families works with families, service providers and other partners throughout the province to build healthy communities that support families to raise healthy children.

Programs and services range from public health initiatives, such as childhood immunizations, to services for youth at risk and community supports for adults with developmental disabilities. The ministry also serves children and youth with special needs, youth and adults working to overcome addictions, children and youth with mental health issues and children whose families are unable to care for them. Youth moving from child and youth services to adult services experience particular difficulty. The ministry continues to work on strategies to co-ordinate smooth transitions in the areas of mental health, youth services and guardianship services.

All services reflect the provincial health goals and respond to the individual needs of children, youth, adults, families and communities – including the unique cultural needs of Aboriginal and multicultural communities. The ministry also strives to be an employer of choice, with a growing focus on organizational health, better management practices, a positive public image and more opportunities for staff involvement in workload reductions and other workplace improvements.

The ministry directly employs more than 5,000 people in multidisciplinary teams in approximately 250 offices and facilities throughout the province. Another 30,000 people are indirectly employed through service agreements with community-based agencies. All of these individuals work in partnership to support an increasingly integrated service delivery system, with integrated case management to improve outcomes for children, youth, adults and their families.

Regardless of where they work in the system, everyone who serves children and families in B.C. is part of the same sector and shares the same goals and the same vision:
A British Columbia made up of healthy inclusive communities, supporting families to raise healthy children.

Ministry Vision, Mission and Values

The Ministry for Children and Families is guided by a series of principles outlined in its vision, mission and values.

The vision statement paints a picture of where the ministry is going and where it wants to be. The mission statement identifies what the ministry does, why and for whom. The value statements express the ministry's core values and define its management style, organizational values and expectations of personal and organizational behaviour.

Vision:
A British Columbia made up of healthy inclusive communities supporting families to raise healthy children.

Mission:
A Ministry for Children and Families must ensure a child-centred, integrated approach that promotes and protects the healthy development of children and youth while recognizing their lifelong attachment to family and community. Communities and clients must be an integral part of the work of this ministry. Quality assurance, accountability and openness are fundamental to its success.

Values:

- The health, safety and well-being of children, youth, families and communities is our paramount concern.
- Our programs and services respond to the individual needs of those we serve.
- We encourage and support children, youth, adults and families to take an active role in decisions that affect their lives.
- We respect the unique cultural backgrounds of those we serve and we're working, community by community, to become increasingly culturally responsive.
- Our community partners are essential to planning and delivering effective services.
- We are accountable for all we do.
- Our services are delivered effectively, efficiently and economically.
- We treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- We involve our service partners in decisions that affect them.
- We are committed to ensuring that the whole service sector reflects the diversity of the people of British Columbia.

Organization and Core Business

MINISTRY ORGANIZATION

The Ministry for Children and Families consists of two distinct but interrelated components – regions and headquarters.

Regions

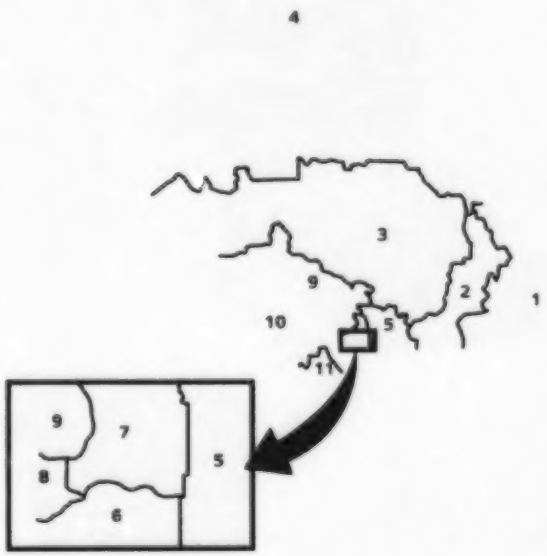
Services are delivered through 11 regions, each of which is headed by a Regional Executive Director. Regional management functions include community services, child protection, community living, contract management, quality assurance, Aboriginal services, personnel and financial services.

An additional region, the Program Operations – Lower Mainland region, is responsible for provincial facilities and programs that are hosted and run in the Lower Mainland area.

The major functions of the regions are:

- conducting client, community, and regional needs assessments
- providing and managing service delivery based on those assessments
- conducting regional planning, evaluation and reporting
- allocating and managing funding within each region
- being accountable to the public
- establishing effective front-line complaints processes
- ensuring equitable access to services for a diverse population
- maintaining and enhancing regional stakeholder relationships
- establishing mandatory advisory committees that include families, youth and adults with developmental disabilities

MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES REGIONS



1. Kootenays
2. Okanagan
3. Thompson/Cariboo
4. North
5. Upper Fraser
6. South Fraser
7. Simon Fraser
8. Vancouver/Richmond
9. Coast/North Shore
10. Central/Upper Island
11. Capital

Headquarters

Headquarters provides central support for the ministry's operations. The functions of Headquarters are:

- providing leadership by establishing provincial policies and standards
- establishing outcome-based objectives and evaluation criteria
- auditing procedures, policies and outcomes
- providing advice and support
- monitoring for quality assurance and administrative fairness
- determining best practices

There are five divisions within Headquarters. They are:

1. Community Services and Program Support Division

This division oversees regional programs and services and is responsible for resource management and Aboriginal relations. The division also develops and maintains policies and standards and provides advice and support to the regions and their service providers on all ministry programs except child protection.

2. Child Protection Division

This division develops and maintains the policy and standards framework and the quality assurance component of child protection services, including guardianship and adoption services.

3. Children's e Policy Centre/Chief Information Officer

This area holds central responsibility for all information and systems within the ministry. It includes a Knowledge Desk to help staff share specialized knowledge and skills.

The Children's e Policy Division coordinates ministry records, Freedom of Information requests, data analysis, corporate policy and planning, complaints processes and intergovernmental relations. It also manages the legislative agenda.

4. Management Services Division

This division manages finance, forecasting, performance management and internal audit functions. It's also responsible for business continuity planning, security, personnel services, training and development, employment equity, diversity and mentoring, employee recognition program, discrimination prevention, multiculturalism, capital planning and asset management.

5. Organizational Health and Sectoral Relations Division

This division focuses on the overall successful functioning and alignment of the ministry and services sector. It promotes and supports organizational health initiatives, and fosters a culture of learning leadership and strong management practices. The division also resolves compensation issues and provides advice to the field on contract and labour relations issues.

Ministry Priorities and Strategies

Over the next three years, the ministry will continue to move forward with programs and initiatives that support the government's health goals and broadly address the health status of children, families and communities. This includes enhancing early childhood development services and improving existing infrastructure to better support service delivery.

Other overarching priorities and strategies integral to all listed goals and objectives include:

- the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Aboriginal Services,
- contract reform, and
- integrated service delivery and case management approaches.

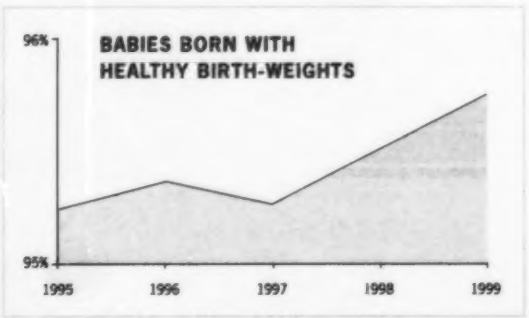
The ministry will also continue to improve professional development opportunities and create a healthier, more supportive working environment for staff across the community service sector.

I. EARLY SUPPORT SERVICES

Research has shown that early childhood is the most critical time for investing in children's well-being. Giving children and families the right support at the right time can dramatically improve their quality of life – in the short term and the long term – and prevent future problems.

Over the next three years, the ministry plans to work with communities to enhance early support services, including a new network of culturally-appropriate early childhood services for Aboriginal families. Other key initiatives include the implementation of a province-wide promotion, prevention and early support strategy for all B.C. children and a targeted strategy to improve access to services for children and youth with special needs and their families.

These and other activities will help increase communities' capacity to offer integrated, cost-effective family supports where and when they're needed. As a result, the ministry expects to see key indicators of risk – such as low birth-weight – continue to decline. Low Birth Weight rate has declined by 9.7 % between 1995 and 1999.



II. PROMOTING HEALTHY BEHAVIOURS BY YOUTH

Youth Addictions

Young people addicted to alcohol and other drugs need specialized support to get their lives back on track. Their treatment needs are different from adults' and, recognizing this, the ministry has considerably expanded the range of options and services available specifically for youth, including detox, intensive day treatment and programs tailored to meet the unique needs of Aboriginal youth and youth in corrections facilities. These services will be further enhanced in the next several years, with a particular focus on young offenders.

Suicide Prevention

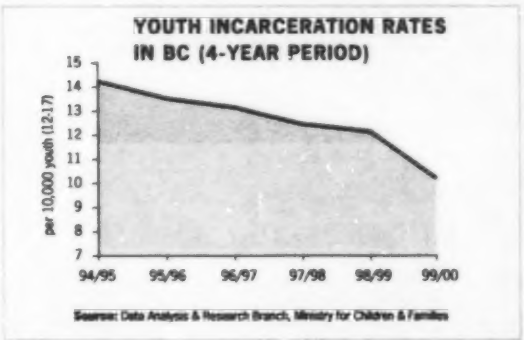
Across Canada and around the world, suicide continues to be one of the leading causes of death for youth in their teens to early 20s. In an effort to reverse this trend, the ministry has made suicide prevention a key priority and continues to work closely with experts at the Suicide Prevention Information and Resource Centre at UBC.

Over the coming years, the ministry will increase funding to the centre to support a series of suicide prevention demonstration projects, designed to engage communities in developing their own, local prevention strategies.

Reducing Crime

Just as youth and adults have distinct addiction treatment needs, they also have different needs within the criminal justice system. The ministry is committed to offering young offenders opportunities for rehabilitation rather than simple incarceration – to help reduce their involvement in crime and give them the tools they need to build a better future.

B.C.'s record for working with youth in community-based diversion programs is one of the best in the country.



*Incarceration rate has declined by 15% during the period of 1995-1999.

Mental Health Services

The ministry provides youth with specialized mental health services, which range from assessment to treatment and referral. Early identification and intervention for adolescents with psychosis has proven to be more effective, and less expensive, and reduces the impact of this illness.

The ministry provides youth with specialized mental health services, which range from assessment to treatment and referral. Early identification and intervention for adolescents with psychosis has proven to be more effective, and less expensive, and reduces the impact of the illness. The ministry will continue working towards improved outcomes for children and youth who have mental health problems.

Youth Agreements

A youth agreement is a legal agreement between the ministry and a youth. This agreement provides the ministry with the ability to provide housing, support for starting or completing educational goals, financial assistance and counselling or other support services.

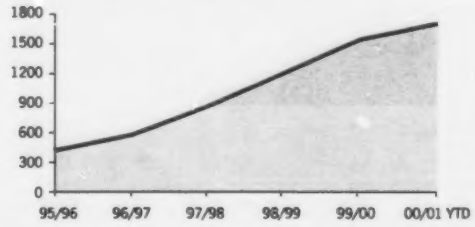
Youth, who are street-entrenched or are living in high-risk situations, may require alternative service plans in addressing their transition to independence and adulthood without bringing them into the guardianship of the ministry. A Youth agreement is a legal agreement between the ministry and youth between the ages of 16 and 18 who are currently in need of assistance and cannot be re-united with their family. It can provide a comprehensive range of supports to assist youth in achieving their goals and independence. The Youth agreement program has been implemented in many communities in B.C. over the last year and efforts are under way to provide this service where it is needed in other communities across the province.

III. PROTECTING CHILDREN

Child Protection

Children's safety and well-being is the paramount concern under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* and the primary focus of the ministry's round-the-clock, 365-day-a-year effort to protect children and youth from abuse, neglect and harm. Child protection social workers take the most appropriate, least disruptive actions to keep children safe – including providing supports to the family and pursuing court orders to supervise children's care in their family homes.

SUPERVISION ORDERS – YEARLY AVERAGES APRIL 1995 TO DECEMBER 2000

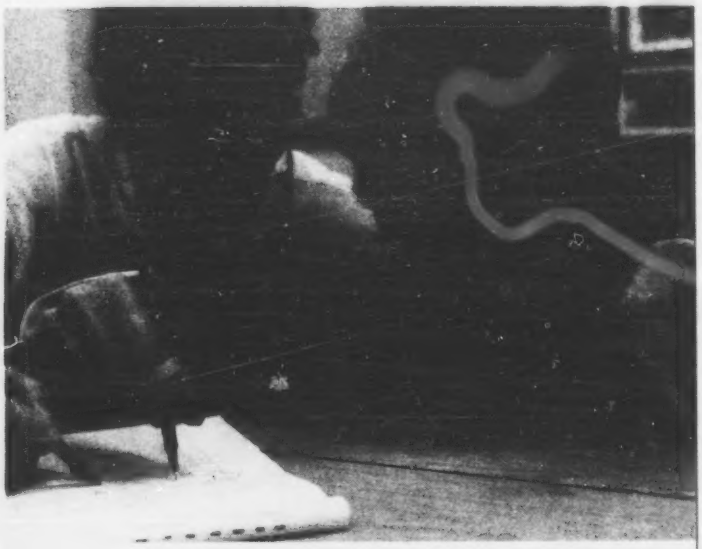


ON AVERAGE, ALMOST 40% OF CHILDREN IN CARE RETURN HOME WITHIN 3 MONTHS

Guardianship Services

Under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, children may come into government care because they need protection, or because their families voluntarily request support. While a child is in care, the ministry has a parental duty to act in his or her best interests.

The ministry is working to determine "best interests" by focusing its attention on one child at a time. A model for assessing and planning for children in care, *Looking After Children*, will continue to be implemented over the next several years.



The ministry will also continue enhanced, mandatory foster parent training to help ensure that children unable to live with their families will receive the best possible care.

Adoption Services

Under the *Adoption Act*, the ministry works in partnership with licensed, private adoption agencies to find children permanent, loving homes. In the coming years, the ministry will increase its efforts to find adoptive homes for children in its permanent care.

Aboriginal Child Welfare Services

Recognizing the unique history of Aboriginal peoples in British Columbia, the ministry supports Aboriginal Nations and communities to build the capacity to design and deliver their own child and family services, including guardianship and child protection. In the years ahead, work in this area will focus on expanding – beyond the current 18 – the number of Aboriginal agencies able to, or developing the capacity to, provide these services within their own cultures and communities.

IV. SERVICES FOR ADULTS

Addiction Services

The ministry provides a range of addiction prevention and treatment services to adults through both government and non-government organizations. Services are available throughout the province and are delivered along a continuum including outpatient services, withdrawal management services, day programs, residential treatment, supportive recovery services and school-based prevention programs.

The ministry will expand its programs for adults with gambling addictions. The ministry will be providing addiction programs for individuals driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Community Living Services

B.C. is recognized as a leader in community living, reflecting the government's commitment to include and support all citizens, regardless of their needs. Just as services for children and youth with special needs are targeted to maximizing each child's potential, community living services are designed to help adults with developmental disabilities live as fully and independently as possible in their communities.

Services in this area include training and support, supported work, self-help skills, professional support, home support and a range of residential services from semi-independent living to specialized tertiary care. The ministry also provides respite and relief services for caregivers.

The ministry will be working with the sector to develop and refine service delivery models to maximize its resources.

Ministry Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures

GOAL 1 – CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS LIVING AND SUPPORTED IN HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.

OBJECTIVES:

1) Improve the healthy development of vulnerable children, youth and their families.

Measures	Targets
a) Healthy infant birth weight rate in general & Status Indian population (per 100 live births)	Year 3: Status Indian - 95.0 General - 95.0
b) Infant, child & youth survival rate in general & Status Indian population (per 1,000)	Year 3: (Infant <1 / Child (0-18) / Youth (15-18)) Status Indian 996.3 / 999.2 / 998.9 General Population 996.8 / 999.6 / 999.7
c) Rate of SIDS deaths in general & Status Indian population (per 1,000 live births)	Year 3: Status Indian - 1.0 General - 0.15
d) Number of children (0-5 years) participating in Aboriginal early childhood development programs in participating communities as a result of new funding	Year 1: Baseline to be gathered Year 2: 2% increase over baseline Year 3: 2% increase over year 2
e) Rate of child deaths from other than natural causes in general & Status Indian population (ages 0–18 per 10,000)	Year 3: Status Indian - 1.7 General - 1.05
f) Proportion of youth completing addiction programs	Year 1: 60% Year 2: 62% Year 3: 64%
g) Rate of alcohol-related deaths (ages 0-18) (age standardized mortality rate – per 10,000)	Year 3: 0.14
h) Rate of drug-induced deaths (0-18) (age standardized mortality rate – per 10,000)	Year 3: 0.8
i) Number of targeted youth not able to live at home in supported housing	Year 1: 270 Year 2: 380 Year 3: 455

2) Improve supports for healthy children and family functioning.

a)	Number of vulnerable expectant mothers requiring extra supports participating in pregnancy outreach programs	Year 1: 2,150 Year 2: 2,215 Year 3: 2,260
b)	Number of expectant parents receiving Baby's Best Chance Parent Handbook of Pregnancy and Babycare and Toddler and Preschool companion parent information resources	Year 1: 40,000 Year 2: 40,000 Year 3: 45,000
c)	Number of vulnerable families participating in parenting programs	Year 1: 2,100 parents Year 2: 2,165 Year 3: 2,210
d)	Number of newborns and their families receiving public health nursing home visits	Year 1: 90% first newborns 10% subsequent newborns in a family Year 2: 95% first newborns 30% subsequent newborns in a family Year 3: 95% first newborns 50% subsequent newborns in a family

3) Improve the capacity and authority of Aboriginal communities to develop and deliver services.

a)	Number of Aboriginal communities (designated by the Minister) served by Aboriginal agencies with delegated authority	Year 1: 111 Year 2: 122 Year 3: 124

4) To contribute to the success of adults with developmental disabilities living and participating in the community.

a)	Implementation progress of the Resource Management Strategy for Community Living Services	Year 1: Develop and establish key performance measures Year 2: Data collection strategy implemented for baseline measures Year 3: Targets to be established based on Year 2 baseline

GOAL 2 – CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROTECTED FROM ABUSE, NEGLECT AND HARMFUL RISK-TAKING BEHAVIOURS

OBJECTIVES:

1) Improve the safety and well-being of youth and adults engaged in high-risk behaviours.

Measures	Targets
a) per capita rate of youth in custody based on a proportion of all 12-17 year olds (per 10,000)	Year 1: 10.5 Year 2: 10.5 Year 3: 10.8
b) Number of Youth Agreements in place	Year 1: 250 Year 2: 350 Year 3: 425
c) Proportion of adults completing addiction programs	Year 1: 60% Year 2: 62% Year 3: 64%
d) Rate of alcohol-related deaths (ages 19+) (age standardized mortality rate – per 10,000)	Year 3: 10.4
e) Rate of drug-induced deaths (ages 19+) (age standardized mortality rate per 10,000)	Year 3: 3.0
f) Youth suicide rate in general & Status Indian population (ages 15-18) (per 100,000)	Year 3: Status Indian - 25.8 General - 3.9

2) Improve the safety and well-being of children and youth receiving child protection services.

a) Number of children-in-care (CICs) adopted	Year 1: 225 Year 2: 275 Year 3: 300
b) Rate of at-risk children and youth supported to stay at home	Year 1: 90% Year 2: 90% Year 3: 90%
c) Proportion of children and youth in continuing custody with a current comprehensive plan of care that is compliant with standards	Year 1: 60% Year 2: 70% Year 3: 80%

GOAL 3 – AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MINISTRY INFRASTRUCTURE

OBJECTIVES:

1) Improve organizational health.

Measures	Targets
a) Overall score on Organizational Health Inventory	Year 1: Baseline data to be collected Year 2: 15% improvement over baseline Year 3: 30% improvement over baseline
b) Average training development days per regular FTE	Year 1: 6.5 Year 2: 7 Year 3: 8
c) Percentage of employees from designated diversity groups	Year 1: 2% increase over 2000/01 Year 2: 2% increase over 2001/02 Year 3: 2% increase over 2002/03
d) Percentage of vacant front-line regular FTE child protection positions	Year 1: 15% reduction from 2000/01 Year 2: 10% reduction from 2001/02 Year 3: 10% reduction from 2002/03
e) Number of regular staff being retained in the Ministry	Year 1: 5% increase from 2000/01 Year 2: 5% increase from 2001/02 Year 3: 5% increase from 2002/03
2) Improve management capacity	
a) Proportion of payments processed in a timely manner	Year 1: 90% Year 2: 92% Year 3: 94%
b) Percentage variance in budget forecasting	Year 1: 0.5% Year 2: 0.5% Year 3: 0.4%
c) Number of contracted agencies accredited	Year 1: 40 Year 2: 75 Year 3: 125

3) Improve information management systems and capital facilities.

a) Progress on implementation of Contract Management System (CMS)	Year 1: Complete evaluation of CMS solutions and move to pilot in selected areas of 2 or 3 ministries, starting in MCF. Year 2: Cross-government (3-5 ministries) implementation of basic CMS functions. Year 3: Further enhancement of CMS function with wider adoption across government and service partners.
b) Progress on implementation of Integrated Client Registry (ICR)	Year 1: Selection of ICR software and limited pilot in 2 or 3 regions, integrated with Service Provider registry of CMS. Year 2: MCF-wide implementation of basic ICR function. Year 3: Roll-out of ICR function to social-services ministries and selected service partners.
c) Progress on implementation of Integrated Case Management (ICM) system	Year 1: Complete evaluation and confirmation of desired ICM function. Complete selection of initial ICM software components. Limited pilot of basic ICM function in 2 or 3 regions. Year 2: MCF-wide implementation of basic ICM functions. Year 3: Implementation of ICM function to service partners and social services ministries.
d) Progress on implementation of Management Analysis & Reporting System (MARS)	Year 1: Completion of 11 regional, 4 resource and 3 initiative support datamarts, Pilot workload analysis, geographic information mapping. Year 2: Contracted Agency Pilot(s), Development of MARS views on aggregate data to general public, completion of integration of MCF information systems, ongoing datamart development. Year 3: Interministry/intergovernment peer to peer data warehousing, ongoing integration of contracted agencies, ongoing development of MARS reporting to general public.
e) Number of facility replacements completed	Year 1: Replacement and expansion of the Prince George Detox facililty Replacement of Maples Detox facility Replacement of Victoria youth custody facilities with integrated (custody/forensic) youth justice facility services

Ministry Budget 2001–2004

(program areas as per government estimates)

BUDGET/FTES ($ MILLIONS)

PROGRAM AREA	2000/01 BUDGET $ millions	FTEs	2001/2002 BUDGET $ millions	FTEs	2002/2003 BUDGET $ millions	FTEs	2003/2004 BUDGET $ millions	FTEs
Corporate Services	43	460	50	490	52	505	53	520
Community Services & Program Support								
• Program Delivery	265	3560	297	3696	306	3811	315	3925
• Services for Children and Families	589	875	666	1014	687	1045	707	1077
• Community Living Services	604	102	677	109	698	112	719	116
Total Community Services & Program Support	1458	4537	1640	4819	1691	4968	1741	5118
Ministry Totals	**1501**	**4997**	**1690**	**5309**	**1743**	**5473**	**1794**	**5638**

* The budget for 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 does not include the Ministry's share of compensation increases for contracted agency staff in the health, community social service & education sectors.

Corporate Services

Provides for overall direction, development and support of ministry programs such as child protection, adult services and regional operations, along with administrative services such as policy and legislation, governmental relations, communications, audit and research functions, training, personnel services, systems support, capital planning and facilities and record management.

Community Services and Program Support

Provides for direct operating costs and local administration of services for children, youth and families, persons with developmental disabilities and persons with multiple disabilities.

Services for Children and Families

Provides for community-based support services for children, youth and families including school-based programs, public health services, Aboriginal services, youth services, child and youth mental health, family support programs, services to children and youth with special needs and their families, youth justice programs, children in care programs and addiction services.

Community Living Services

Provides for community-based residential care, training and support services for adults with developmental and/or multiple disabilities. Also provides support to families whose children have special needs.

Environmental Scan

With almost four million people in B.C., including nearly one million children, the ministry is accountable to a large number of people with a wide variety of specialized needs. These needs can vary significantly according to the health and structure of the economy, as well as demographic and social changes – all of which will create both opportunities and challenges for the ministry in the next few years.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Additional staff will enhance front-line service delivery.
- Enhanced funding will improve service delivery capacity.
- New technology will help staff provide more efficient, integrated services.
- Opportunities to collaborate with the federal government will increase.
- Professional development opportunities for staff will improve.
- Aboriginal organizations will continue to take more responsibility for their own social and health services.
- The ministry will continue to employ more than 25,000 persons at family supporting wages.

CHALLENGES:

- Continued fiscal restraint will make it difficult to meet growing public expectations for additional services.
- The teenage population is expected to increase relative to the total child population, creating additional challenges in areas such as suicide prevention and services to high-risk youth.
- Persons with special needs are living longer, increasing the costs of lifelong service delivery.
- One-fifth of B.C.'s children live in poverty and 60% of children in care are from families who are, or have been, on BC Benefits. Almost 23% of families with children at home are headed by single parents and 60% of children in care come from lone-parent families.
- The Aboriginal child and youth population is growing much faster than the non-Aboriginal child population. One-third of children in care are of Aboriginal ancestry.

Legislation

The ministry has responsibility for the following legislation:

Adoption Act
Provides for new and permanent family ties through adoption, giving paramount consideration to the best interests of the child.

Child, Family and Community Service Act
Provides for policies, programs and services for the safety and well-being of children.

Corrections Act (limited sections only)
Youth Justice programs are intended for the protection and benefit of young persons and for the protection of the public, by assisting young persons to resolve their conflict with the law.

Human Resource Facility Act
Enables the Minister to provide a grant or other assistance to a person for the purposes of acquiring, developing or operating facilities for one or more of the following purposes:

- A residence or facility for the care of children
- A special home for the care of persons with disabilities
- An activity centre or workshop for persons with disabilities
- A special human resource facility or program designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council

Bill 25 *(Secure Care Act)*
The purpose of this Bill is to provide, when other less intrusive measures are unavailable or inadequate, a means for assessing and assisting children within a secure environment who
(a) have an emotional or behavioural condition that presents a high risk of serious harm or injury to themselves, and
(b) are unable or unwilling to take steps to reduce that risk.

Social Worker Act
Provides for a Board of Registration for Social Workers that examines, qualifies and registers all Registered Social Workers in British Columbia.

Links to Government Priorities

Government Priority	Relevant Ministry Goal Statement	MCF Related New Initiatives/Strategies
Safer Communities	Children and youth protected from abuse, neglect and harmful risk-taking behaviours: • Improve the safety and well-being of youth and adults engaged in high-risk behaviours.	Expanded addiction services: implementation of Addictions Task Group recommendations.
Keeping People Healthy	Children, youth and adults living and supported in healthy families and communities. • Improve the healthy development of vulnerable children, youth and their families. • Improve supports for healthy children and family functioning. • Improve the capacity and authority of Aboriginal communities to develop and deliver services.	Continuing focus and expansion in the area of early childhood supports. Early intensive services for children with autism. Dr. J. Fraser Mustard has been named Children's Health and Development Advisor for B.C.
Providing Quality Health Care	Children, youth and adults living and supported in healthy families and communities. • Improve the healthy development of vulnerable children, youth and their families. • Improve supports for healthy children and family functioning. • Improve the capacity and authority of Aboriginal communities to develop and deliver services.	$8 million to be invested in Aboriginal children. This annual funding will help establish a system of early childhood development services in urban aboriginal communities throughout the province.
Providing Dignity and Security for All	Improve the healthy development of vulnerable children, youth and their families: • To contribute to the success of adults with developmental disabilities living and participating in the community.	Resource management is about finding creative opportunities to maximize the use of resources available to adults with a developmental disability.